



*Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!*

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## Nurses' union forces ICE to release colleague

### Special to Workers World

Debora Kapisha, a union nurse at Maine Medical Center in Portland [Maine], who was recently kidnapped by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Boston Logan International Airport, was released from ICE custody on Aug. 6. Kapisha is a medical surgical nurse and member of Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (MSNA/NNOC), an affiliate of National Nurses United (NNU), the largest and fastest growing nurses' union in the U.S.

Kapisha is from Zambia and was arrested while traveling through Logan Airport on July 30. While holding her in custody, ICE threatened to transfer Kapisha to a detention facility in Louisiana. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made the charge that Kapisha "overstayed her legal visa." (nationalnursesunited.org, Aug. 6).

Over 200 members and supporters of MSNA

and NNU organized a militant rally outside of Maine Medical Center demanding the release of their union sibling. "We were able to organize a rally for Debora within 24 hours of finding out she had been detained by ICE," said MSNA activist leader Kelli Brennan. The union was successful in pressuring the ICE terrorists to release Kapisha and was able to block them from transferring her to Louisiana.

MSNA held a press conference on Aug. 7 to announce Kapisha's freedom and ability to travel back to Maine. Wearing red T-shirts that read "Nurses for Democracy," MSNA activists highlighted how their collective action resulted in a



PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES UNITED

**Union nurses rally for colleague Debora Kapisha outside Maine Medical Center, Portland, Aug. 6, 2026.**

victory. NNU has taken courageous positions against ICE within the labor movement by calling for its complete abolition. Their bold stance has forced other labor unions and healthcare organizations to condemn ICE terror as well. □

## Protest hits neo-colonial project in Puerto Rico

**By Ferdinand J. Almodovar**  
New York City

An estimated 300 attendees gathered at Union Square on a rainy day in New York City on Aug. 5 to denounce 128 years of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico (Boriquén) during a worsening water and power crisis for the people of the island. The motivation for this militant protest was a multistate defense of Puerto Rico against its newest neo-colonial project, Esencia – and for the ultimate liberation of Puerto Rico from the grip of imperialism and U.S. hegemony.

A broad and revolutionary coalition of activist and community organizations across the Puerto Rican diaspora coordinated this action.

The Puerto Rican colonial Governor Jenniffer González-Colón sets unrealistic and inhumane rationing policies

without any structural improvements in sight. She continues to facilitate the corrupt sale of Cabo Rojo (a city located on the southwest coast of Puerto Rico) to the billionaire-backed Esencia luxury development project, which many experts have decried on environmental, ecological and socio-economic grounds.

Puerto Rico is a major U.S. military hub in the Caribbean and is critical to its strategic and logistical campaigns surrounding Operation Southern Spear, which has resulted in the deaths of over 200 civilians following a barrage of lethal, extrajudicial strikes on small fishing vessels in the Caribbean Sea.

The U.S. also continues to draw closer to active war on Cuba and holds Venezuela's President, Nicolás Maduro, and First Combatant, Cilia Flores, captive in a federal prison in Brooklyn. □

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# The legacy of Fidel Castro: *‘¡Venceremos!’* (‘We will win!’)



August 13 marks the centennial birthday commemoration of Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz, affectionately known as “Fidel” to hundreds of millions of people around the globe. Fidel was the leader of the 26th of July Movement that eventually defeated the U.S.-backed puppet regime of President Fulgencio Batista in Cuba on Jan. 1, 1959.

It was in early 1961, at the time of a revolutionary victory over a CIA-sponsored invasion at the Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón), that Fidel declared that a “socialist revolution” was made under the noses of the U.S. By the end of the same year, he stated that he was a Marxist-Leninist.

For the next 52 years, from the triumph of the Revolution until his formal resignation in 2008, Fidel was the leader of the Cuban people. He died at the age of 90 on Nov. 25, 2016.

There will be commemorations of every aspect of Fidel’s legacy, not only among the Cuban people, but also on almost every continent, especially within countries in the Global South. And rightfully so! Fidel was more than an individual survivor of hundreds of plots to assassinate him by several U.S. administrations. Fidel’s survival meant in many ways the survival of the Cuban Revolution; that is, Cuba’s independence and sovereignty in a world dominated by imperialist aggression and treachery.

Fidel’s exemplary revolutionary guidance helped Cuba to navigate through difficult times, including the U.S.-led Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the collapse of the Soviet Union and loss of Cuba’s main trading partners, and, of course, the ongoing devastating U.S. blockade.

It was Fidel who oriented the Cuban

masses that it was necessary to take a step backward to survive during what was referred to as the “special period” in the early 1990s. This period ushered in capitalist reforms, including private investments, where dollars were integrated in certain sectors of the Cuban economy to help keep afloat crucial socialist measures, such as free healthcare and free education.

## Looking toward the future

Fidel was also a fierce anti-imperialist internationalist. He encouraged Cuban brigades to travel — especially to other developing countries throughout the Global South — to provide healthcare to underserved populations.

Africa held a special place in Fidel’s heart. He helped to supervise Cuban militias battling side by side with the People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) against invading South African apartheid troops during the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. Fidel and Nelson Mandela maintained a close personal relationship until Mandela’s death in 2013.

Fidel expressed solidarity in words and deeds with national liberation struggles inside the U.S., despite ongoing hostility from the U.S. government. The late Black Liberation fighter Assata Shakur was granted permanent asylum in Cuba from 1987 until her death in September 2025. Rallies to free Angela Davis were organized throughout Cuba when she was arrested by the FBI on phony charges in 1970 for supporting imprisoned Black Panther Party (BPP) leader, the martyred George Jackson. Fidel also publicly expressed solidarity with another political prisoner and former BPP member, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

This Workers World editorial could go on and on with many other awe-inspiring examples of what Fidel has done to defend the sovereignty of the Cuban people and to promote the interests of all the world’s workers and oppressed peoples. Arguably his greatest gift is what his passing represents: his undying optimism in

the revolutionary struggle for worldwide socialism for future generations. And that optimism is embedded deeply within the fabric of Cuban society.

Cuba continues to defend its socialist gains today and beyond despite a devastating oil and gas blockade and the current threat of a U.S. military invasion.

As Fidel repeated time and time again: “¡Venceremos! (We will win!) ” □

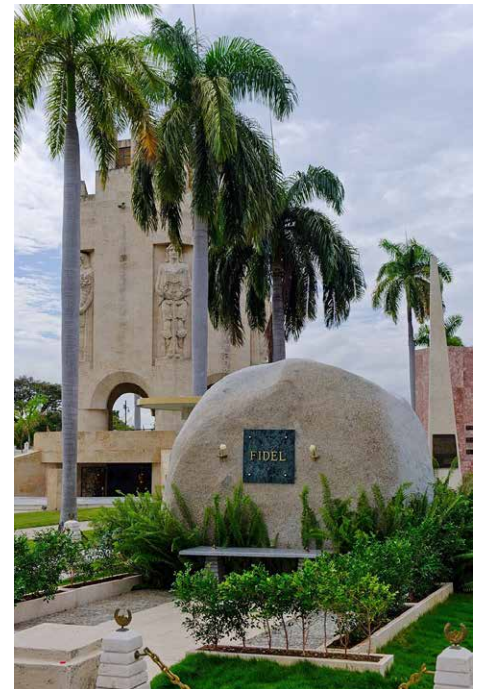


PHOTO: GREG ROTHSCCHILD / WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Fidel’s final resting place, Santiago de Cuba.

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# USS Lincoln in deep s---t

## Carrier crew's relatives rage at Pentagon bosses

By John Catalinotto

Military families, unhappy over how their sailor relatives on the USS Lincoln aircraft carrier have been mistreated by the Pentagon during their last nine-months combat mission, showed their anger at an Aug. 7 virtual town hall meeting with top U.S. Navy officers in San Diego.

According to the report on MS NOW, some 200 parents, spouses and other relatives of 5,000 sailors and Marines on the Lincoln gave hell to Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao in San Diego “over difficult conditions aboard the USS Lincoln as its combat mission against Iran stretches onward with no clear date to return home.”

Relatives complained about “the sailors’ mental health, safety on deck, a lack of supplies, food shortages, water contamination and disruptions in the mail system, which have caused many care packages en route to the ship to be lost in transit for months.” According to MS NOW, many of the spouses were in tears asking the top officers about problems of mental health or exhaustion.

One spouse raised political questions about the USS Lincoln’s mission. She said the military was “killing innocent civilians” and her spouse had expressed guilt about his actions. The audience applauded.

Loved ones asked repeatedly when the sailors on the Lincoln would return home. The Naval officers were unable to answer them.

One of the Pentagon spokespeople, Vice Admiral Douglas Verissimo, explained the shortages in food and other supplies by calling attention to Iran’s retaliatory strikes at a U.S. naval base near Iran: “When Bahrain was no longer a port for logistics, food and mail ... all of the gear that was there when the shooting started got stuck there.”

### Remarkable public opposition

Such public war opposition by relatives of military personnel — and apparently from the active-duty personnel themselves — has rarely reached such a high level so early in a war.

But this reaction should not be surprising, because the White House has continually been caught in lies and contradictions since Feb. 28. That’s when the U.S. and Israel first launched the war on Iran, claiming it would be over in days. The MAGA cabinet



Veterans For Peace promote knowledge among active-duty personnel that they have the right and the duty to refuse orders to commit war crimes. Above, billboard in Okinawa.

members never even made a serious attempt to explain what the war’s goals were, nor did they each tell the same story.

The Iranian government, military and Revolutionary Guards were able to respond to the U.S.-Israeli aggression. Meanwhile, the White House alternated between threatening annihilation of Iran’s civilization and promising that talks to end the fighting were underway.

As a result, a much greater proportion of the U.S. population are aware of the potential disaster. It is more and more apparent that Washington is the aggressor, that the president and his cronies lie constantly about the war and that — even if the fighting stops — the war has created a growing economic crisis for U.S. working people.

The USS Lincoln isn’t the only example of this break between the MAGA regime and the U.S. population. Earlier in the spring of 2026, sailors on the USS Gerald Ford, where 4,500 personnel had been on a mission for nearly a year, showed signs of a similar crisis.

After nearly 10 months at sea (usually six months is the limit), with the crew working 80-hour weeks without rest, the USS Ford’s toilets stopped functioning for months. Stories spread that exhausted sailors stuffed T-shirts down the toilets in protest. The Ford was sent to a naval base in Crete, a Greek island, and now the carrier and its crew are finally home in Norfolk, Virginia.

### Call to resist war crimes

The experiences on the USS Ford and USS Lincoln indicate that an incipient resistance may be underway right inside the largest machines of mass destruction wielded by the Pentagon. Some call the carriers giant floating factories. Others call them floating prisons.

Other indications were the July 4

demonstration of Veterans Against Fascism in Philadelphia and the Veterans For Peace (VFP) campaign to place antiwar billboards near dozens of military bases, from Georgia to California to Japan. These billboards warn that active-duty personnel have the right and the duty to refuse to obey illegal and unconstitutional orders.

The VFP held a convention in Kansas City from Aug. 7-9 where this organization is continuing to promote resistance against illegal orders.

That the relatives of service people speak out against war is a definite sign that active-duty personnel know their government and its officers are ordering them to commit war crimes. They feel every risk and discomfort they face, which they might ignore if they believed they were doing the right thing. Many already know they are participating in war crimes. Can it be long before more say no?

*Catalinotto is author of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” World View Forum, 2017. See [workers.org/book/turn-the-guns-around](http://workers.org/book/turn-the-guns-around)*

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# Detrás de la crisis de Ceuta

Un enclave es un territorio que está completamente rodeado por el territorio de un único Estado o entidad. Puede tratarse de un territorio independiente o de parte de uno más extenso. Uno de estos enclaves que acaparó la atención internacional el 30 de julio fue Ceuta, en España, una península situada en la costa de Marruecos, país del norte de África.

Ese día, más de 6.000 marroquíes cruzaron la frontera de Ceuta para escapar de una vida de pobreza y desempleo en su país de origen. Según los informes, al menos 72 marroquíes perdieron la vida en una estampida o por ahogamiento.

Según la mayoría de los informes, ante la perspectiva de quedarse sin comida, agua ni refugio, casi todas las personas que cruzaron a Ceuta fueron obligadas físicamente a regresar a su país, ya fuera por tierra o por mar.

## La colonización española es la causa básica

Marruecos, que cuenta actualmente con una población de más de 38 millones de personas, fue colonia de España desde 1912 hasta 1956. Una vez conseguida la independencia formal, Marruecos, al igual que otros países africanos sometidos por los ricos países capitalistas europeos, tuvo dificultades para desarrollar su propia infraestructura y economía autóctonas con el fin de satisfacer las necesidades de su población, especialmente en las zonas rurales.

Según la Alta Comisión de Planificación de Marruecos, «en 2024, alrededor del 72% de las personas que vivían en la pobreza se encontraban en el campo, frente al 79% en 2014. La pobreza rural disminuyó del 23,6% al 13,1%, pero sigue siendo más de cuatro veces superior a la tasa de pobreza en las

zonas urbanas, que se situó en apenas el 3% en 2024». (Moroccan World News, 22 de mayo de 2025)

Esta realidad quedó patente en el caso de los marroquíes que intentaban cruzar la frontera nadando durante horas. Younes Murad, de veintiocho años, afirmó: «Nuestras familias son pobres. No hay trabajo en Marruecos. Tengo un título universitario y no tengo empleo». Khadija Almoufi, de veinte años, que ayuda a mantener a su familia, declaró: «Hay pobreza por todas partes. Quiero llevar una vida maravillosa. En Marruecos no hay servicios ni dinero». (Washington Post, 1 de agosto)

En el centro de esta crisis se encuentra la disputa en curso sobre quién debe controlar Ceuta: Marruecos o España. Geográficamente, este enclave está situado dentro de Marruecos, cerca del estrecho de Gibraltar, que separa a ambos países. Sin duda, Marruecos tiene un derecho legítimo sobre Ceuta.

## Una crisis internacional

Los acontecimientos del 30 de julio y sus consecuencias no se produjeron de forma aislada. Reflejan la crisis actual de millones de migrantes del Sur Global, más pobre, que esperan encontrar una vida mejor para ellos y sus familias en el Norte Global, más rico. Durante décadas, e incluso siglos, las clases dominantes de los países capitalistas europeos, como España, se enriquecieron a costa de la mano de obra y los recursos robados a países africanos como Marruecos mediante la represión violenta y la ocupación.

La situación es muy similar a lo que está ocurriendo en EE.UU., especialmente a lo largo de la frontera sur, donde los migrantes arriesgan sus vidas al llegar por tierra desde países del sur como México y Guatemala, y desde Haití, en el Caribe. El



Gobierno supremacista blanco de la Casa Blanca ha declarado una guerra racista contra los migrantes de color, desatando a sus «perros de presa» bajo la apariencia de agentes armados y enmascarados del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) y de la sanguiñaria Patrulla Fronteriza. Esta guerra ha dado lugar a redadas ilegales, detenciones, separación de familias y la muerte de migrantes y activistas solidarios.

Incidentes como el de Ceuta no van a desaparecer. La crisis seguirá agravándose para los migrantes a medida que la situación económica capitalista mundial se deteriore más allá de todas las fronteras, muchas de las cuales fueron creadas artificialmente, en primer lugar, por el saqueo imperialista.

Mundo Obrero promueve la solidaridad con todos los migrantes, que constituyen un sector integral de la clase obrera mundial. Afirmamos que los multimillonarios de la clase dominante que se enriquecen a costa de la explotación de los trabajadores son los ilegales, no los migrantes. ¡Abran las fronteras! □



Migrantes marroquíes en la frontera de Ceuta.

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